Extension of RLTAP to Orissa

*129. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), in its report has recommended extension of the Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP) to the KBK region of Orissa, as this plan has brought about socio-economic change in this region and there is an urgent need for its further extension; and

(b) if so, what is the action plan of Government for immediate restoration/implementation of RLTAP in this region, when this issue has sufficiently been echoed in and outside the Parliament by the elected representatives of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad has carried out a quick evaluation study of the projects and programmes implemented under the Special Plan for the KBK districts during May-August, 2006. The report has recommended that the efforts in the last three to four years are showing results and that the programme needs to be continued with more vigour. Further, there is a need to prepare a long term perspective plan at the district level involving people and people's institutions from the lowest panchayat level.

(b) The State Government of Orissa had drawn up a Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP) for the period 1998-99 to 2006-07 with a total outlay of Rs. 6251 crore consisting of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in various sectors, namely agriculture, horticulture, watershed development, afforestation, irrigation, health, drinking water, emergency feeding, welfare of SCs/STs and rural connectivity. This plan was a sum total of ongoing Centrally sponsored schemes. In order to fill critical gaps, Additional Central Assistance was allocated by Planning Commission to the KBK districts each year. For the period 1998-99 to 2001-02, a total amount of Rs. 243.95 crore was released as ACA(70% loan : 30% grant). From 2002-03, the Special Plan under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) is being funded on 100% grant basis. From 2002-03 till date, a sum of

Rs. 1033 crore has been released. The Special Plan for the KBK districts was being funded @Rs. 250 crore per annum under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY). The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana has now been replaced by the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). Under this programme, a Participatory District Development Perspective Plan for the Eleventh Five Year Plan period has to be prepared for each district. The Panchayats at the village, intermediate and district level will undertake planning and implementation of the programme. The participatory plans prepared by each Panchayat and Municipality are to be consolidated into the district plan by the District Planning Committee. As far as the level of funding is concerned, the allocation of Rs. 250 crore per annum being made currently will be protected. The eight KBK districts will be funded as per the BRGF district norms and the remaining amount will be provided under the Special Plan for these districts.

Nankana Sahib Shrine in Pakistan

†*130. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the plight of the holy shrine of Nankana Sahib situated in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the efforts being made to improve its condition; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Relgious Shrines signed in September, 1974 requires the respective Governments to maintain the sanctity of the shrines in their respective countries. Government is aware that some shrines in Pakistan are not maintained properly. The Government of Pakistan has been apprised of the need for proper maintenance of the shrines as provided under the bilateral protocol.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.